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On September 7th the RIT College of Engineering dedicated a new wing of the James E. Gleason building, including the new Brinkman Machine Tools and Manufacturing Laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility devoted to research and education in manufacturing.

One of the key contributors to the construction of the new wing and lab was the Brinkman Foundation, both financially and through the donation of machinery. Robert Brinkman, owner of Davenport Machine, CJ Winter Machine Technologies, Brinkman Precision, Inc., MSK, Inc., and Gates Albert, Inc. heads the Brinkman Foundation.

RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering is among the nation's top-ranked engineering colleges. With the addition of this new lab, the industry can look forward to fresh ideas and an even higher caliber of manufacturing engineers graduating from the school. Areas that are currently being researched at the lab include machining processes, surface roughness and metrology, computer modeling of abrasive processes, computer vision in manufacturing, fixture design, assembly systems engineering, and EDM characterization.

It is no wonder why Brinkman is supportive of research and educational development. His father, Earl W. Brinkman, whom the lab is named for, was similar in age to many of the lab's students when he was granted his first patent while working for Davenport Machine. Earl was with Davenport for 54 years, dedicated to the creation of new ideas and machining practices. Not only has this ambition been associated with the Brinkman and Davenport name, it is the concept that fuels the manufacturing industry today.

Robert Brinkman touched on the importance of innovation stating, "The amount of human resources is dwindling in the manufacturing and machine tool industry. The Brinkman Foundation hopes to change that by supporting schools such as the RIT College of Engineering and equipping students with advanced skills, real-world experience and the creative problem solving abilities. This will provide the edge US manufacturing needs to continue to compete in the global economy."

For more information about the Brinkman International Group and its Davenport Machine, please visit their website at:

www.davenportmachine.com/aboutus